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Chairman: Mr. Acharya ..... (Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Agenda item 33: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/60/19 and Add.1 and A/60/980)

1. **Mr. Basu** (India) said that in view of recent increases in United Nations peacekeeping activity, the ability of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to raise and deploy large peacekeeping components at short notice was commendable, but there was also a tendency to create new parallel instruments without in-depth planning. Of particular concern to India was the safety and security of uniformed and civilian personnel, and in that regard his delegation welcomed the Under-Secretary-General's focus on reform, resources, training, modernization and accountability.

2. Stressing the importance of sharing mission information with troop-contributing countries and field commanders, he called on the bureaucracy at Headquarters to actively engage field missions and respond positively to their problems. Ensuring equitable geographical representation and transparency in recruitment were important considerations in the creation of a civilian cadre for DPKO, as was the improvement of communication technologies and information technology capacities so as to enhance the safety and security of field personnel.

3. India supported consultations among troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat. Briefings for troop-contributing countries were being held with increasing frequency, but were still occurring too close to the renewal of mission mandates, leaving insufficient time for meaningful discussions. Troop-contributing countries needed to be involved early and fully in all aspects and stages of mission planning.

4. India also supported efforts to further deepen the Organization's relationship with the African Union. Nevertheless, regional arrangements should accord with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations; the real challenge for the Organization lay in finding ways to strengthen peacekeeping without regionalizing it.

5. While agreeing that peacekeeping elements should be incorporated into new multidisciplinary peacekeeping operations from the outset to ensure a seamless transition, he cautioned against the tendency to confuse peacekeeping with peacebuilding; the latter was best left to the agencies, funds and commissions of the United Nations system and must be locally owned. In that regard, his delegation supported institutional cooperation and coordination between DPKO and the Peacebuilding Commission, including the Peacebuilding Support Office.

6. Sexual exploitation and abuse were totally unacceptable forms of behaviour; his delegation fully supported the implementation of a zero-tolerance policy and noted the work done by DPKO on raising the awareness of those with managerial and command responsibilities as well as on establishing conduct, training and investigation standards. It also welcomed the progress made towards the establishment of standing police capacity, and emphasized that recruitment should be done in a transparent manner with due consideration of professionalism, geographical balance and the contributions of troop-contributing countries.

7. In conclusion, he said that India desired to make peacekeeping into an even more effective tool for the maintenance of international peace and security.

8. **Mr. Ali** (Sudan) said that it was incumbent on DPKO to carry out its missions in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and within clearly defined mandates. Those mandates should be based on such principles as consent of the governments in question for peacekeeping, respect for the sovereignty and political independence of States, respect for their territorial integrity and non-interference in their internal affairs.

9. In order to assure the success of peacekeeping missions, DPKO must guarantee the security of peacekeepers and monitor their behaviour in order to avoid the recurrence of the sexual abuse that had occurred on some missions. Financial management should be strengthened in order to assure Member States that funds were being used responsibly. Building lasting peace also depended on true cooperation with civil society organizations and the private sector.

10. Despite decades of war, Sudan had cooperated closely with the Organization in a joint quest for peace. That quest had culminated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 9 January 2005 and had led to the creation of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). The Darfur Peace Agreement was also being

implemented and the Government of Sudan was doing its utmost to convince armed movements that had rejected that Agreement to join the peace process.

11. United Nations peacekeeping operations should work effectively and harmoniously with regional organizations. Such organizations had a better understanding of the conflicts in question owing to their cultural and social ties with the affected areas as well as their geographical proximity. Thus it was imperative to strengthen the capacities of regional organizations by providing them with the necessary resources and training. In that regard, he commended the support that DPKO provided the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS).

12. He stressed that DPKO should always have a time frame for the accomplishment of its duties and a clear exit strategy for its missions and should make national actors the basis for the continuation of peacebuilding and development efforts.

13. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) emphasized the importance of maintaining the governing principles of the United Nations when organizing a peacekeeping mission. Peacekeeping forces should be constituted on the basis of their ability to contribute to the goals of the mission, and such missions required the prior approval of all concerned parties. He urged the Security Council to exercise its authority with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security and to call for an immediate ceasefire in order to avoid humanitarian tragedies such as that which had recently occurred in Lebanon.

14. His delegation wished to re-emphasize the importance of a number of factors in the implementation of peacekeeping operations. First was the need to ensure the security and safety of peacekeeping troops and United Nations personnel working in the field; in the light of the recent deaths of UNIFIL troops in Lebanon, DPKO should establish mechanisms to guarantee troop safety and recognize criminal and material responsibility of States that bombarded United Nations posts. Second was the need for enhanced consultation among the Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the troop-contributing countries when new peacekeeping missions were approved or existing mandates reviewed; in that regard, he requested clarification of the costs and benefits of the Department's proposal to involve nearly 20,000 civilian personnel in peacekeeping activities, especially in view of existing budgetary limitations. Third was the need to affirm the vital relationship between peacebuilding efforts and development activities in conflict areas, in order to provide the appropriate conditions for Governments to emerge from conflicts and to prevent conflicts from recurring. Fourth was the need to confront any failures by peacekeeping personnel in the fulfilment of their duties by enforcing accountability; such enforcement must be done transparently by the Secretariat and field commanders in consultation with the States concerned.

15. Egypt welcomed the consolidation of regional peacekeeping efforts in Africa, and emphasized the necessity of achieving that consolidation in a framework of agreement, coordination and full cooperation among the United Nations, regional organizations and concerned States. Egypt supported the strengthening of the role of the African Union in Sudan, and called for the Organization to seek the clear approval of the Sudanese Government for the deployment of forces there as part of a comprehensive package that ensured the protection of Sudanese sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

16. Finally, Egypt shared the concerns expressed by many regarding the issue of sexual abuse and exploitation perpetrated by some individuals working in peacekeeping operations and emphasized the need to address it in order to preserve the reputation of the Organization and its role in peacekeeping.

17. **Mr. Jevremovic** (Serbia) said that although substantial experience had been gained with the increase in the number and complexity of peacekeeping operations, many shortcomings remained. He called for a thorough review and analysis of each peacekeeping mission and for closer cooperation between the Security Council and other United Nations bodies. The revised memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries was an important step forward in identifying administrative, logistic and financial conditions, as well as in setting standards of conduct for members of national contingents and for investigation of misconduct where alleged.

18. Early deployment of experienced and qualified personnel in sufficient numbers was instrumental to the success of any peacekeeping operation. The downsizing of some components of a mission could result in the creation of a culture of impunity.

Moreover, in some cases peacekeeping missions failed to completely fulfil their mandate. For example, in the province of Kosovo and Metohija, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) had failed to provide security for the non-Albanian population, which continued to be exposed to ethnically motivated attacks. As long as a significant part of the population remained displaced, stakeholders could hardly be expected to participate in political processes aimed at building a multi-ethnic and multicultural society.

19. However, Serbia remained committed to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It was already participating in the missions in Congo, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire and was ready to join those in Lebanon, the Sudan and Afghanistan.

20. **Ms. Baaziz** (Algeria) said that sound financing, adequate logistical resources and an integrated approach were all essential to the success of a peacekeeping mission. Some peacekeeping missions had even contributed to peaceful periods of transition and to the successful organization of elections, demonstrating the central role they played in the maintenance of peace and security. The fact that, in future, the Peacebuilding Commission would be involved in the administration of post-conflict situations did not mean that peacekeeping operations should cease to be involved, as such operations were essential factors in the creation of durable peace in countries emerging from conflict.

21. While DPKO had achieved some positive results, as reflected for example in improvements in its operational planning capacity, major challenges remained. Cooperation between the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries should be strengthened in order to address the latter's concerns and to define practical ways to involve them in decisions affecting their troops in the field.

22. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the area of peacekeeping was also of great importance in conflict prevention, crisis management and stabilization. International assistance was indispensable if such groups as the African Union and subregional organizations were to be able fully to participate in stabilization and crisis resolution.

23. While reiterating her delegation's firm condemnation of the acts of sexual abuse and exploitation that had tarnished the honourable record of United Nations peacekeeping operations, she said that, in order to implement an effective policy of zero tolerance, other actions were needed at all levels, including by the member States, to enhance the awareness of mission personnel and inculcate in them an understanding of the conduct standards in force.

24. **Mr. Datsenko** (Ukraine) said that his delegation encouraged the Secretariat to continue its work with Member States on mechanisms to ensure that readily available reserves for rapid deployment operated effectively and at full capacity. Although improvements had been made in recent years, in the financing of peacekeeping operations, ways must be found to ensure timely reimbursements to troop-contributing countries for troops and contingent-owned equipment.

25. Given the urgent need to strengthen the protection of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, his delegation welcomed the establishment in the field of joint operations centres and joint mission analysis centres. His Government also was pleased to note the substantial progress made regarding the establishment of a standing police capacity and was prepared to make a contribution to support it. His delegation also supported the proposal to establish a substantial capacity of civilian peacekeepers and would welcome the involvement of major troop-contributing countries in the recruiting process.

26. His country strongly supported the United Nations zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and looked forward to the conclusion of deliberations concerning the revised draft model memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and Member States contributing resources to United Nations peacekeeping operations, the national investigation officers concept, and the draft United Nations comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff or related personnel.

27. The Secretariat should continue its efforts to enhance partnerships and arrangements with regional and subregional organizations to meet the peacekeeping challenges it faced. The international community should provide assistance to strengthen the peacekeeping capacity of regional organizations, in particular the African Union. The Security Council, the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries should continue their cooperation, which was indispensable

for conducting peacekeeping operations in the most effective manner at every stage. Close cooperation was also desirable between the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Commission and between DPKO and the Peacebuilding Support Office.

28. All peacekeeping personnel in his country received appropriate training prior to their deployment in the field. His delegation noted with appreciation the intention of the Secretariat to develop standardized peacekeeping training materials and looked forward to the formalization in 2007 of its policy on providing support to national training centres. Finally, he reiterated his country's readiness to continue being a reliable partner of the United Nations.

29. **Mr. Shinyo** (Japan) said that, given the increase in peacekeeping operations, every effort should be made to ensure efficient use of resources and to enhance accountability. It was also important to secure highly qualified personnel and to give them proper training, including on issues relating to sexual exploitation and abuse. His delegation was prepared to continue supporting the efforts by the United Nations to address those issues.

30. With regard to the call for strengthening the Secretariat so that it could effectively manage the expanding peacekeeping operations, while his Government was prepared to consider proposals in that regard, it would encourage the Secretariat to start by establishing an effective management system so that it could efficiently utilize existing resources.

31. The expansion of peacekeeping operations had also meant an expansion in their functions. The complicated mandates of some missions required inter-agency cooperation. The international community had to be cognizant of the fact that peacebuilding continued well beyond the end of peacekeeping activities. In that regard, his country welcomed the fact that the Peacebuilding Commission had commenced its full-fledged activities.

32. Employment of highly qualified experts was indispensable to the success of peacekeeping operations and Japan was studying a scheme to train civilian experts for peacebuilding, particularly in Asia. In connection with the personnel issue, he expressed concern at the continued imbalance in geographical representation in field missions.

33. The reports of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had underscored the importance of better interaction between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries. As chair of the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, his delegation had made an active effort in that regard, however further efforts were needed on the part of the Security Council and all Member States.

34. **Ms. Hernández Toledano** (Cuba) said that the establishment of new and more complex peacekeeping operations must not be a substitute for efforts to resolve the root causes of conflicts and to develop long-term strategies for sustainable economic and social development.

35. Peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles of the Charter, in particular those referring to sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, consent of the parties, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence. Regional arrangements for dealing with peacekeeping were valuable and should be in full accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter.

36. The Security Council must refrain from applying double standards when establishing the mandates of peacekeeping operations. Steps should be taken to guarantee that troop-contributing countries had a truly active role in all decision-making stages of peacekeeping operations.

37. Her delegation supported the zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and welcomed the progress made thus far in implementing the policy.

38. All Member States should pay their assessed contributions to finance peacekeeping operations without conditions, in accordance with their capacity to pay, and no State should be able to impose special conditions on peacekeeping operations by virtue of the high level of its contributions.

39. The principle of equitable geographical distribution should be respected with regard to personnel, both at Headquarters and in the field, and greater transparency was needed in the selection of high-ranking personnel. The current imbalance in such posts worked against the developing countries.

40. **Mr. Oh** (Republic of Korea) noted that the past year had been a challenging one for DPKO. Not only had it been decided to expand the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United

Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in Darfur but it had also been decided to establish a new mission in Timor-Leste.

41. The UNIFIL expansion had been marked by exemplary cooperation between DPKO and Member States. However, in Darfur the international community was facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and it could not afford to fail. His delegation looked forward to the expansion of UNMIS as soon as possible through cooperation between the United Nations and the concerned parties.

42. Demands for new peacekeeping missions had continued to increase in recent years, particularly in Africa, placing a substantial burden on Member States. Responding to the challenges of those demands required enhanced cooperation and partnership with regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) or NATO.

43. Those experiences should serve as guideposts for the creation of rapid response capabilities for peacekeeping operations. His delegation urged the Secretariat to strengthen partnerships with regional organizations as a basis for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities and suggested that DPKO should publish a yearbook on global peace operations to highlight the contributions made by regional organizations.

44. There was an urgent need to strengthen the peacekeeping capacities of African nations and the African Union. Taking note of the 10-year plan for capacity-building within the Union, he encouraged Member States to support that substantive endeavour.

45. The Republic of Korea was exploring ways to enhance its contribution to peacekeeping efforts. Those efforts included the streamlining of domestic procedures for dispatching contingents to peacekeeping operations and cooperating with neighbouring countries on peace operations training.

46. The importance of timely consultations between the Security Council, troop-contributing countries and donor countries could not be overemphasized, particularly at the start of a mission. In view of the domestic requirements of many Member States, DPKO should consult with Member States as early as possible. Finally, he commended the Secretariat for its efforts to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping missions and for its efforts to improve security for unarmed peacekeeping personnel, particularly military observers.

47. **Mr. Christian** (Ghana) said while many of the reforms outlined in the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (contained in document A/55/305) had been carried out, much remained to be done. He therefore reiterated his country's support for the Secretary-General's agenda for the reform of peacekeeping operations.

48. Cooperation and consultation among troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat were imperative and should be increased. Regional and subregional organizations also had a vital role to play in conflict resolution and he therefore expressed his appreciation for the assistance that had been extended to the African Union (AU).

49. He also welcomed the progress made in addressing troop security, especially the proposed utilization of monitoring and surveillance to improve security in volatile situations, and encouraged DPKO to continue enhancing its intelligence-gathering and analysis capabilities.

50. The conduct of troops merited the constant attention of the United Nations and its Member States. There should be no tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and troop-contributing countries should support the efforts of DPKO to eradicate such behaviour.

51. Peacekeeping was part of a process aimed at achieving sustainable peace and security. It created an environment that was conducive to development and good governance. The establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission was an important step towards those goals.

52. **Mr. Chabi** (Morocco) said that the Secretary-General's proposal to focus the peacekeeping agenda on five priority areas for reform: partnerships, doctrine, people, organization and resources represented a welcome approach to strengthening peacekeeping operations and should be accompanied by a long-term strategy to ensure the success of such missions. He referred to a number of United Nations peacekeeping operations which had made significant contributions over the past two years and expressed the hope that the expansion of UNIFIL would contribute to lasting peace in the region.

53. It was imperative for rapidly deployable tactical reserves to be available when needed, and his delegation deplored the ineffectiveness of the United Nations Standby Arrangements System. An assessment of inter-mission cooperation mechanisms should be provided so that Member States could determine the option's usefulness for enhancing rapid deployment capabilities.

54. All Member States, including wealthy countries, should participate in peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, the Security Council must become more representative of the world's regions if it was to be considered the voice of the international community in the face of threats to international peace and security.

55. Given the increasingly multidimensional nature of United Nations peacekeeping operations, it was essential to improve the capacity of the Organization with respect to mission preparation, leadership, support and closure. It was also necessary to ensure a smooth transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding, to which end the United Nations and its partners must remain actively engaged in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, restoration of the rule of law, and implementation of quick-impact economic reconstruction projects.

56. His delegation attached particular importance to the recruitment and training of peacekeeping personnel. Equitable geographical distribution and excellence should be the key recruitment criteria. The United Nations should also improve its ability to recruit and retain qualified, motivated and disciplined civilian peacekeeping personnel. Ensuring job security and merit-based promotion was important in that regard.

57. Ongoing close cooperation between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries was essential at all stages of peacekeeping operations in order to build partnerships and trust, and consultations among the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries and the principal organs involved should be strengthened as well.

58. United Nations peacekeeping operations in Africa deserved strong support, and his delegation welcomed any initiative to strengthen African peacekeeping capacity.

59. Contributing to peace and stability continued to be a key pillar of Morocco's foreign policy, as evidenced by its contributions to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, as well as to operations in Kosovo and Bosnia.

60. **Ms. Hodjo** (Togo), after expressing appreciation for past United Nations peacekeeping operations, particularly in Africa, noted with regret that, in the past decade, peacekeeping operations had become more numerous and more complex. In consequence, it was essential to enhance the resources available for peacekeeping operations, and to implement as rapidly as possible the programme of reform submitted the previous year, in order to upgrade the professionalism and effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

61. In that context, Togo welcomed the addition, over the preceding decade, of the tasks of conflict prevention and peacebuilding to the traditional role of restoring peace. By involving the combatants in the search for solutions to conflicts, and notably in supporting sometimes difficult political transitions, the United Nations greatly increased its chances of success.

62. Noting that, while it was easy to unleash a conflict, it was much harder to bring it to a close, she called on Member States always to choose the path of dialogue and consultation, and to attempt to resolve the underlying causes of conflicts. Additionally, every country should find the political will to make a contribution, however modest, to the success of peacekeeping operations.

63. **Mr. Mbuende** (Namibia) said that having itself benefited from United Nations peacekeeping operations, his country had decided from the very outset to contribute troops and police officers to United Nations peacekeeping missions. The first such participation had come barely two years after independence.

64. Namibia attached great importance to the participation of women in the conflict resolution processes, including peacekeeping operations. Namibia had gradually increased the number of women deployed as peacekeepers and hoped that other troop-contributing countries would follow suit, since women added value through their differential approach and reaction to situations. However, it was of utmost importance that an environment conducive to the participation of women be created.

65. Clearly, the surge in demand for peacekeeping operations was stretching the capacity of the United Nations to respond. Since adequate resources were an obvious precondition for the success of any mission, it was important that the United Nations should work closely with other stakeholders. Cooperation with regional and subregional mechanisms was of utmost importance, and such cooperation should be two-way. His delegation welcomed all the efforts expended by both the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and other partners to help Africa develop its peacekeeping capacity. The establishment of a dedicated multidisciplinary capacity in DPKO, to assist Africa in its endeavour to establish an African standby force by 2010, was highly appreciated.

66. Finally, he applauded the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the establishment of the Peacebuilding Fund, which would go a long way towards speeding up the process of peacebuilding in a number of countries.

67. **Mr. Cato** (Philippines) welcomed the reforms being undertaken by DPKO to improve the capability of the United Nations to respond effectively to conflict situations and supported the proposal to create a 2,500-strong corps of civilian peacekeepers and the proposals for the creation of a standing police capacity and an enhanced, rapidly deployable reserve capacity. It also hoped to see the Military Division reinforced with additional professional planners.

68. The Philippines appreciated the efforts of DPKO to enhance cooperation with the troop-contributing countries and was pleased to know that DPKO had started work on the core policy document that would set out the fundamental principles, objectives and conditions for the successful deployment and disengagement of United Nations peacekeepers. It looked forward to the completion of what the Secretary-General had referred to as a "living doctrine", that would serve as guide for all peacekeeping personnel and also looked forward to improvements in the operational efficiency of peacekeeping missions, including the further elaboration of mission templates.

69. Noting that the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement continued to provide the bulk of peacekeepers, he said that his delegation would like to see a larger participation from the more developed countries. The prompt response of Italy and other troop contributors to the strengthened United Nations mission in Lebanon had been a welcome development that others should emulate.

70. He also called for arrangements that would allow troop contributors to partner together in support of United Nations peace operations, for example by enabling Member States willing to deploy personnel but lacking the necessary equipment to team up with another Member State that was willing to provide such equipment but did not have personnel.

71. As the largest troop contributor from South-East Asia, the Philippines attached serious importance to the issue of discipline and conduct in United Nations mission areas. It took note of the progress made in the enforcement of measures by DPKO, particularly the creation of Conduct and Discipline Units. The Philippines had recently revised the policy framework and guidelines governing its participation in peacekeeping operations. It had formalized and laid down a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse cases and could also be expected to send a clear message against prostitution in peacekeeping missions. Finally, it was ready to endorse the Secretary-General's proposals for victim support and the draft model memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries.

72. **Ms. Mladineo** (Croatia) said that Croatia was proud to be contributing to 11 of the 18 United Nations peacekeeping missions worldwide and that it would continue to enhance its contributions to United Nations peacekeeping efforts, putting special emphasis on the civilian component.

73. The expansion and increasingly multidimensional character of peacekeeping activities revealed a very clear need for continuous training of personnel. Croatia firmly supported all United Nations activities in that respect, and had organized, together with DPKO, eight international workshops on transitional justice, national reconciliation and the building of the culture of peace. It particularly appreciated the very useful regular briefings and reports of the Situation Centre for the troop-contributing countries.

74. Croatia also firmly believed that it was in the common interest to ensure that the aims of peacekeeping were not compromised in any way. Therefore, it was pleased to see that the recommendations contained in the report of the

Adviser to the Secretary-General on sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel (A/59/710) were being given serious consideration.

75. Finally, Croatia shared the views of the Under-Secretary-General on the necessity of building effective and complementary partnerships with local and international actors to ensure the sustainability of the achievements on the ground.

76. **Mr. Dhital** (Nepal) recalled that his country was the fifth largest contributor of military personnel and third largest contributor of police officers to United Nations peacekeeping operations and currently had 3,500 troops assigned to 13 missions. Given the challenges that the present peacekeeping operations faced, Nepal fully supported the agenda for meeting those challenges, which was outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/640) and which was based on five priority areas for reform: partnerships, doctrine, people, organization and resources.

77. Nepal also believed that the safety and security of United Nations personnel should continue to receive top priority. In that connection, he expressed his Government's sincere gratitude to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Secretary-General and the relevant departments and officials of the United Nations for their unstinting efforts to secure the release of the seven Nepalese peacekeepers who had been held hostage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo earlier in the year.

78. While appreciating the various measures employed by DPKO to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel, Nepal saw a need for a comprehensive strategy to prevent the taking of hostages and to secure their release when such events did happen. It would also be desirable for United Nations peacekeepers who sustained injuries or illness in discharging their duties to be given disability allowances and other compensation by the United Nations.

79. Close coordination among the Security Council, the United Nations Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries was crucial to the success of any United Nations mission. Nepal believed that the involvement of the troop-contributing countries with DPKO from the very outset and at every stage, would contribute to the smooth functioning and success of the mission.

80. Finally, Nepal fully supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers, and was working closely with DPKO to make that policy effective. In that context, the recommendations made by the Group of Legal Experts merited careful examination.

81. **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) emphasized that peacekeeping operations should be carried out in conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and that it was essential to observe basic principles, including the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence, impartiality, and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States. The peacekeeping capacity of the United Nations should be enhanced and all countries should contribute to such operations through the traditional channels, subject to the availability of domestic resources.

82. His delegation fully supported the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The report of the Group of Legal Experts on ensuring the accountability of United Nations staff and experts on mission with respect to criminal acts committed in peacekeeping operations, contained in document A/60/980, provided a sound basis for negotiations; such negotiations should take place soon.

83. Contributions by regional arrangements to peacekeeping operations should be made in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant principles and norms governing such operations, and should be carried out under the guidance, command and control of the United Nations and in a transparent manner. Such arrangements should be viewed as a temporary solution to filling the gap between United Nations peacekeeping capabilities and the demand for peacekeeping operations. Nevertheless, inasmuch as most United Nations peacekeeping operations were being conducted in Africa, his delegation supported increased cooperation with the African Union and support for African capacity-building.

84. All Member States were potential troop- and police-contributing countries. Accordingly, any invitation by the Secretariat to meetings on establishing new United Nations peacekeeping operations or expanding existing ones should be

addressed to all Member States in a transparent manner.

85. His delegation paid tribute to the courage, service and sacrifice of all peacekeepers and condemned in the strongest terms the killing of any United Nations personnel. The deliberate killings of UNIFIL personnel by the Israeli Defense Forces in Lebanon in July 2006 had outraged the entire international community. Iran joined other troop-contributing countries in requesting the Secretary-General to continue to give the utmost priority to enhancing the safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers, including civilian police and military observers in the field.

86. His delegation was concerned about the staffing and structure of DPKO and urged the Department to rectify the current imbalance of representation of unrepresented Member States in accordance with General Assembly resolutions.

87. His delegation appreciated the efforts of DPKO to provide national and regional peacekeeping training centres, as well as national training focal points located in Member States, with the necessary guidance for training United Nations peacekeeping personnel. His country was prepared to work with the United Nations and its Member States in the area of peacekeeping training activities by, inter alia, establishing a regional training centre in Iran.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.